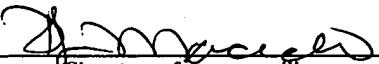


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Donna J. Macedo

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)


(Signature of person mailing paper)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of

Mark W. Becker

Serial No: 10/785,497

Filed: February 24, 2004

Title: Prodrugs of Phosphonate Nucleotide
Analogues and Methods for Selecting and
Making Same

) Group Art Unit: 1657

) Attorney Docket No. 249.P2

) Examiner: Paul C. Martin

AMENDMENT

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Patent and Trademark Office Final Rejection mailed October 24, 2007 setting a 3 month period for response expiring January 24, 2008. A Request for a Three Month Extension of time to reply is submitted herewith, whereby the time for response is extended to April 24, 2008. Applicants also file a Notice of Appeal from the Final Rejection in order to give the Examiner adequate time to consider this amendment.

Please amend the claims as follows: